

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Contra Costa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center
date: September 7, 2001
scale: 1:130,000
type: CIR Transparencies
coverage gaps: none
additional imagery: n/a

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: City of Brentwood
county: County Community Development Dept., County Dept. of Agriculture

➤ *websites:*

City of Brentwood (<http://www.ci.brentwood.ca.us/>)
Bay Area Property.info (<http://www.bayareaproperty.info/community/list.htm>)
Delta Wetlands Project (www.deltawetlands.com)
East Bay Parks (www.ebparks.org)

➤ *GIS data referenced:* SWIS landfill, waste facility reference file

2000-2002 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

Note: This is the first digital update for Contra Costa County. Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn throughout the county. Therefore, adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county. The changes listed below are only representative of the total number of actual changes.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There were 18 conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land this update, with 13 occurring on the Brentwood quad, alone. First, in east Antioch, a small area of development (~20 acres) in the form of a golf driving range, adjacent new industrial buildings, and the new E. 18th St. Business Center was added. Meanwhile, in the Brentwood area, urbanization was evident in the form of new homes. New urbanization in the Brentwood area included the “Laurel Park” (~70 acres), “Arbor View Park” (~40 acres), “Belvedere” (~50 acres), “Traditions” (~15 acres), and “California Orchard” (~80 acres) developments. Lastly, new home development totaling approximately 200 acres were seen adjacent to Discovery Bay in the “Lakeshore,” “Chesapeake,” “Edgewater,” and “Harvest Cove” developments. Most of these increases were offset by linework cleanup associated with the first update over digital imagery (see ‘unusual changes, below).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

There were 36 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to urban land. Most of these changes were due to new housing developments. For example, the “Harbor Lights” (~35 acres) and “Capistrano” (~40 acres) developments were added in the West Pittsburg area. In the El Sobrante area, new homes were seen in the “Canyon Oaks” (~17 acres) development near San Pablo Reservoir. A further development of homes near a reservoir was seen in south Antioch where new homes (~30 acres) were in evidence not far from the Antioch Municipal Reservoir. Also, approximately 55 acres of new homes and buildings were noted along the western urban fringe of San Ramon. The Oakley area also experienced some urbanization on its southern urban fringe where a new park and a small development of new homes were added (~30 acres). Finally, the largest examples of the urbanization of local, grazing, or other land were seen in the Brentwood area in the form of new homes and golf course communities. The two most notable developments were along the southwestern urban fringe of Brentwood and were both golf course communities. The Shadow Lakes in Brentwood development was expanded seemingly to its boundaries with the addition of another ~285 acres of homes and golf course area. Meanwhile, across the street, the Deer Ridge Country Club with its golf course and associated housing developments was a conversion of approximately 525 acres.

Another notable conversion of a different kind was the new Delta Energy Center power plant complex that accounted for the conversion of ~35 acres.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were 16 conversions of irrigated farmland to local or grazing land. Half of these conversions and most of the acreage occurred on Delta islands in the northeastern part of the county and were due to land having been fallow for at least three updates. Tracts of land were removed from the irrigated farmland category on Jersey (~1250 acres) and Bradford (~1220 acres) Islands and on Webb (~330) and Holland (~1560 acres) Tracts. Much of Holland Tract is slated to be a habitat island under the proposed Delta Wetlands Project.

The remaining conversions of irrigated farmland to local or grazing land involved fairly small tracts of land which had been fallow for three or more updates, with the majority of these conversions taking place in the eastern, more ag-intensive part of the county.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 17 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land. The overwhelming majority of these conversions (12) took place on the Brentwood quad and involved either farmland that had been fallow for three or more updates or the identification of ranchettes. The remaining few conversions were scattered throughout the county and were also due to the factors mentioned above.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

There were 5 conversions of local, grazing or other land to irrigated farmland. For Example, a small plot of vines (wine grapes ~10 acres) was added up in the mountains on the Briones Valley quad. On Veale Tract, approximately 100 acres of irrigated farmland was added. Finally, a small plot of irrigated farmland (~14 acres) was added just to the south of Clifton Court Forebay.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.*

D→I On the Brentwood quad, a small plot of vines (~14 acres) was added in the midst of the Oakley area.

D<->G, X There were extensive urban boundary adjustments made throughout the county due to both workflow and imagery improvements such as orthorectification of imagery to correct for hilly terrain and the ability to digitize linework directly over the imagery for the first time in this county. These improvements, while boosting the accuracy of our maps, give rise to multiple conversions in and out of the urban category which, when added together, can be quite sizeable.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

The Delta islands will continue to need special attention paid to them. Some of these islands have plans underway for them to become habitat or reservoir islands that seem to be taking longer than anticipated. In the meantime, many of these Delta islands exhibit a “patchwork quilt” of native vegetation and farmland. Hopefully, plans for these islands will be implemented in the near future. Beware of limited or nonexistent access to many of these islands!

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

photo interpretation, start date: August 28, 2002

photo interpretation, number of days: 8

ground truthing dates: September 17-20, 2002

days for map compilation and clean up: 8

*** Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp